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## ALBANIAN EMIGRE, SOVIET VIEWS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SITUATION IN ALBANIA

IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH FACILITIES -- Moscow, Novaya Albaniya, 1951

In old Albania the mortality rate among the population was extraordinarily high. Epidemics took thousands of lives: Especially terrible was the toll taken by malaria, which affected 60 percent of the population.

In 1938, Albania had only eight hospitals and 36 mobile clinics. There was only one doctor for several thousand inhabitants.

The present regime, on the other hand, takes excellent care of the health of workers. Hospitals, polyclinics, rest homes, and public nurseries have been built. The number of medical institutions is several times greater than in prewar years. By 1950, there were more than 40 hospitals, with 3,000 beds in all. Polyclinics, maternity homes, and women's consultation rooms have been opened in all rreth centers, while mobile clinics visit hundreds of villages.

In old Albania there were no materuity homes. Infant mortality was high. Now there are 11 maternity homes in Albania and 20 maternity wards in rural hospitals.

Medical aid is free. Home medical care has been organized. In many freths prevalence of malaria has been greatly reduced. Measures against tuberculosis and rheumatism, once the scourge of workers, have been put into effect. The 1949 budget allotted 317 million leks to public health; in 1950, this allotment was over 400 million.

Workers now have annual vacations at the expense of the state in rest homes on the shores of the Adriatic or in the mountains near Lake Ohrid. In 1950, there were ll such homes. The state also gives sick pay, and unemployment relief in case of accident during employment, pregnancy, or old age.

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The state has opened 11 orphanages for war orphans. By 1950, there were 20 public nurseries and 242 kindergartens, which take care of 10,000 children. School is compulsory for all children of seven up. Children under 14 are forbidden to work for hire. At the end of the school year, the students go to summer camps at the best seaside and mountain sites. In 1950, some 40,600 students enjoyed these camps.

The Albanian government does not grudge money for physical culture. In the first 5 years after coming into power, it spent more than 57 million leks on physical culture, stadiums, athletic fields, swimming pools, and sports.

A technical school of physical culture was opened in Tirana and named for the national hero, Bojo Kushi. This school trains physical cultures instructors for schools, enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, and the national army.

SOVIET EXPLOITATION -- Pristina, Flamuri 1 Liris, Feb 53

The isolation and exploitation policy imposed by Moscow on Albania extends into the field of medicine.

The so-called medical supplies from the USSR are merely empty words, since the medicines are of such poor quality that they are ineffective. Tuberculosis has increased since International Red Cross shipments were cut off date not specified from Albania and shipped without stopover to the USSR. This happened, for example, in 1949 with a shipment of penicillin.

Tuberculosis sanitariums are only for the privileged. "Enemy" elements do not have the right to be treated in them.

Whenever a number of Soviet doctors, so-called great experts, arrive in Albania, Hoxha's regime appropriates houses of Albanians to give the "great brothers." Of course, the expelled families must live somewhere, so they are assigned sheep pens. As might be expected, such living conditions cause and spred tuberculosis, which is one of the prevalent diseases in Albania.

Soviet doctors receive fees of 20,000 to 30,000 leks and privileged treatment in food and clothing. Furthermore, a motor ambulance sent to Albania by former emigrants is used not for transporting the sick but for the pleasure of Soviet doctors. While an Albanian doctor is obliged to make a hundred calls a day, the Soviet doctor makes 10 to 15. The reason given for the few visits made by these satraps is that Soviet doctors are extremely conscientious.

Soviet doctors have only a superficial knowledge of medicine. Their education consists of 7-year school, three gymnasium courses, and three courses in a medical school.

One example of the work of Soviet doctors in Albania is as follows. When they saw the great Myzeqe plain, they thought it should be turned into a rice field and exploited to serve Tirana. Albanian doctors, knowing the malarial conditions there, advised against the Soviet plan, but the work was done, and malaria gained ground.

In Albania medical science, supposed to be for the good of humanity, is not for the people but for the privileged. Hoxha and Shehu are blinded by the "great Soviet sun" and let the Albanian people suffer.

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